## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**Claims 1-10 (canceled)**

**Claim 11 (currently amended):** A method for generating a predetermined breaking line in a one-layer planar extending article having a working side and a decorative side, comprising a material with an inhomogeneous material density ~~distribution~~, said method comprising the steps of:

directing a laser beam bundle to the working side for removing material in its beam path and thereby generating holes that are invisible from the decorative side;

the laser beam bundle and the planar extending article carrying out a relative movement with respect to one another so that the holes are generated in a row along the desired predetermined breaking line at a first selected hole spacing;

switching off the laser beam for a period of time determining the ~~subsequent~~ first selected hole spacing when an amount of radiation generating a detector signal that is greater than a predetermined threshold signal impinges on a detector arranged on the decorative side;

gradually increasing the output of the laser beam from zero to ~~its~~ a maximum of 100% of the laser's nominal value over a time period before starting to produce each hole, where the time period for the output of the laser beam to increase from zero to the 100% nominal value is greater than a response time of the detector; ~~and~~

switching off the laser beam immediately when a detector signal that is greater than the predetermined threshold is generated before reaching the maximum nominal value, which is caused by the absence of material or by a small amount of material of the planar extending article in the beam path (pseudo-hole) and prevents removal of the small amount of material and prevents overloading of the detector; and

selecting a second hole spacing between a pseudo-hole and a subsequent hole such that the second selected hole spacing is smaller than the first selected hole spacing.

**Claim 12 (currently amended):** ~~The~~ A method for generating a predetermined breaking line in a multiple-layer planar extending article with a working side and a decorative side, in which the layer (final layer) forming the decorative side~~[[,]] said method comprising~~ comprises an inhomogeneous material, said method comprising the steps of:

directing a laser beam bundle to the working side for removing material in its beam path and thereby generating holes that are invisible from the decorative side;

the laser beam bundle and the planar extending article carrying out a relative movement with respect to one another so that the holes are generated in a row along the desired predetermined breaking line at a first selected hole spacing;

switching off the laser beam for a period of time determining the ~~subsequent~~ first selected hole spacing when an amount of radiation generating a detector signal that is greater than a predetermined threshold signal impinges upon a detector arranged on the decorative side;

reducing the output of the laser beam prior to penetration of the laser beam into the final layer at least until the amount of radiation still being emitted generates a signal smaller than the threshold with full detection;

activating the detector and subsequently increasing the laser beam again gradually over a time period to ~~its~~ a maximum of 100% of the laser's nominal value, where the time period for the output of the laser beam to increase to the 100% nominal value is greater than a response time of the detector; ~~and~~

switching off the laser beam immediately when a detector signal that is greater than the predetermined threshold is generated before reaching the maximum nominal value, which is caused by the absence of material or by a small amount of material of the

planar extending article in the beam path (pseudo-hole) and prevents removal of the small amount of material and prevents overloading of the detector; and

selecting a second hole spacing between a pseudo-hole and a subsequent hole such that the second selected hole spacing is smaller than the first selected hole spacing.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12;

wherein a preparatory cut is introduced along the desired predetermined breaking line from the working side to, at most, the final layer before generating the row of holes~~[[,]]~~; and

wherein the detector is desensitized or deactivated in order to protect it from possible overload.

**Claim 14 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 11,~~ Claim 11;

wherein the threshold signal is selected in such a way that it is generated already by an amount of radiation that transmits through a residual wall of material of the planar extending article so that the holes are formed as blind holes.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12;

wherein the threshold signal is selected in such a way that it is generated already by an amount of radiation that transmits through a residual wall of material of the planar extending article so that the holes are formed as blind holes.

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 11,~~ Claim 11;

wherein when working an inhomogeneous material that is a textile surface having an open structure on the decorative side, the threshold signal is selected in such a way that an amount of radiation that generates a signal greater than the threshold signal

is not detected until after the direct penetration of the decorative side so that the holes are formed as microperforations.

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12; wherein when working an inhomogeneous material that is a textile surface having an open structure on the decorative side, the threshold signal is selected in such a way that an amount of radiation that generates a signal greater than the threshold signal is not detected until after the direct penetration of the decorative side so that the holes are formed as microperforations.

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 14~~ Claim 14;, wherein the laser beam impinges on the working side at an angle of less than 90° relative to the direction of the predetermined breaking line in order to increase the length of the beam path in the planar extending article, which leads to removal of a greater amount of material with hole spacing remaining constant or allows greater hole spacing.

**Claim 19 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 15,~~ Claim 15; wherein the laser beam impinges on the working side at an angle of less than 90° relative to the direction of the predetermined breaking line in order to increase the length of the beam path in the planar extending article, which leads to removal of a greater amount of material with hole spacing remaining constant or allows greater hole spacing.

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 16,~~ Claim 16;

wherein the laser beam impinges on the working side at an angle of less than 90° relative to the direction of the predetermined breaking line in order to increase the length of the beam path in the planar extending article, which leads to removal of a greater amount of material with hole spacing remaining constant or allows greater hole spacing.

**Claim 21 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 17,~~ Claim 17; wherein the laser beam impinges on the working side at an angle of less than 90° relative to the direction of the predetermined breaking line in order to increase the length of the beam path in the planar extending article, which leads to removal of a greater amount of material with hole spacing remaining constant or allows greater hole spacing.

**Claims 22-23 (canceled)**

**Claim 24 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 11,~~ Claim 11; wherein the laser beam bundle is shaped in such a way on the working side that its cross section decreases toward the decorative side.

**Claim 25 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12; wherein the laser beam bundle is shaped in such a way on the working side that its cross section decreases toward the decorative side.

**Claim 26 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 11,~~ Claim 11;

wherein when working an inhomogeneous material that is a woven material comprising longitudinal threads and cross threads, the first selected hole spacing is less than the thread diameter.

**Claim 27 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12; wherein when working an inhomogeneous material that is a woven material comprising longitudinal threads and cross threads, the first selected hole spacing is less than the thread diameter.

**Claim 28 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 26,~~ Claim 26; wherein the first selected hole spacing is equal to half of the thread diameter so that each thread is weakened by two holes insofar as the hole is not generated over the thread diameter.

**Claim 29 (currently amended):** The method according to ~~claim 12,~~ Claim 12; wherein the first selected hole spacing is equal to half of the thread diameter so that each thread is weakened by two holes insofar as the hole is not generated over the thread diameter.